Bandipur kidnapping case

1580. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been discussions between the Karnataka Government, Tamil Nadu Government and the Central Government since the Bandipur Kidnapping in the month of October, 1997;

(b) whether Government of these States have sought any assistance from the Central Government to capture the forest brigade of Veerapan involved in these kidnappings; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A meeting was convened in the Ministry of Home Affairs on 22 October, 1997 in which senior officials of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu took part. It was decided in this meeting that Tamil Nadu Police and Karnataka Police should have a joint command and upgrade intelligence collection before launching operations to nob Veerappan. Trained Commandos of the Central Police Force could then be deputed, as and when necessary, to assist the joint command of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the operation..

Presidential form of Government

1581. SHRI DEBABARATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had made a public statement that the country should switch over to Presidential form of Government;

(b) whether the opinion expressed represents the official stand of the BJP-led Government at the Centre;

(c) if not, whether his statement has the approval of the Prime Minister; and

(d) if answer to part (c) above be in the negative, whether Prime Minister has impressed upon him not to make policy statements in public without due authorisation from all the important constituents/units of BJP-led Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) In the context of the National Agenda for Governance, which provides, inter alia, that a Commission will be appointed to review the Constitution of India in the light of the experience of the past 50 years, it was mentioned that the Commission, while retaining such basic features of the Constitution as democracy, would be free to assess the relative merits and demerits of the Presidential form of Government vis-a-vis the Parliamentary form of Government.

Fake currency notes

1582. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the wide circulation of fake currency notes in the market throughout the country of a long time;

(b) whether Government have assessed the gravity of the poor people affected by such cheating at a very large scale;

(c) if so, the facts in detail; and

(d) the measures taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The circulation of fake currency notes has been reported, from time to time, from the border districts of Punjab, Gujarat, UP and Bihar, etc. According to information received from the Reserve Bank of India, the value of fake currency notes detected by the Reserve Bank of India and seized by the police during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 14,94,996. The value of fake currency notes in circulation cannot be ascertained by any degree of certainty.

"Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including crimes relating to the counterfeiting of currency

notes, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

However, in order to combat counterfeiting, currency notes are now printed on a specially made cylinder mould vat made paper with additional security features. The Reserve Bank of India issues Press releases, from time to time, to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant.

Blasts in Coimbatore

1583. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu has confirmed that the target of blasts in Coimbatore during the General Election meeting on 14th February, 1998 was the B.J.P. leader, Shri L.K. Advani; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken to ban the extremist organisations associated with the blasts?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) As per information furnished by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the Special Investigation Team of the Crime Branch CID constituted by the State Government to investigate the bomb blasts which took place in Coimbatore on 14.2.98 were planned by Al-Umma to cause heavy loss to human lives and properties to avenge the loss suffered by Muslims during the communal violence in November, 1997. It has also been reported that seven activists had been prepared to target Shri L.K. Advani. However, according to the State Government these activists could not gain access to the venue due to elaborate security measures.

(b) The state Government has already banned two Muslim Fundamentalist organisations, viz., the Al-Umma and All India Jihad Committee suspected to be involved.

Downgrading the security of VVIPs

1584. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intelligence Bureau is strongly resisting a move by his Ministry of downgrade the security of several VVIPs;

(b) if so, the points of disagreements; and

(c) the steps taken to reconcile the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Anti-National Activities in Darjeeling

1585. SHRI DAWALAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an all party delegation from Darjeeling met him recently and apprised him about the anti-national activities in Darjeeling led by Shri Subhash Ghising, Chairman, DGHC;

(b) whether the delegation submitted a memorandum to him containing proofs of such activities; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government to curb, such anti-national activities to preserve national integration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) An all party delegation from Darjeeling met the Home Minister recently and submitted a Memorandum to him.

(c) Government is examining the issues involved.

Preventing starvation deaths

1586. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has ordered